



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Community Corrections

### Completing Probation *Successfully*

#### Introduction

This pamphlet was created to explain the requirements of supervision and to clarify the assistance you can receive from your Probation/Parole Officer and others. Periodically, changes may occur in supervision circumstances or conditions and your officer will advise you of the changes. The purpose of supervision is to help you lead a law abiding life and monitor your activities and compliance while on supervision. Enforcing the conditions of a North Carolina Court or another state is part of the supervision process and your Probation/Parole Officer will review the conditions with you.

#### What happens after the Court sentences me to probation?

You will be assigned an officer after a brief intake process the day you are in court. At your first appointment, your officer will review the court judgment with you and the expectations of probation supervision to include regular and special conditions of probation and any money you must pay to the State of North Carolina.

Every person on probation will be assessed for their risk and needs during the first 60 days of supervision. The information is gathered by your officer through home visits, office contacts, family contacts and the officer's observations which will help establish your priorities during supervision. The assessments help your officer determine how often you will need to report and understand your needs which are related to your risk of re-arrest. Your officer will help you begin to work toward your goals and review these, along with the court conditions on a regular basis.

#### Supervised Probation

The judge has ordered that you spend a specific amount of time on probation while complying with certain conditions. The same regular conditions apply to everyone under supervision. Special conditions of probation are those conditions that are specific to your case, and may or may not be the same for someone convicted of a similar offense. Circumstances in your case are unique, so the special conditions of probation will be different.

#### Referrals to Community Resources and Interventions

Your officer may refer you for assistance with the following: drug/alcohol problems, anger management, mental health, job readiness, vocational rehabilitation, education, housing assistance, parenting, family counseling, residential treatment or consumer credit counseling. The officer may utilize Treatment Accountability for a Safer Community (TASC) to help bridge these services, if applicable. You will have the opportunity to make positive changes in your life with the assistance of the agencies in your community. In addition to the conditions ordered by the court, your probation officer will ask you to complete worksheets designed to assist you in thinking about how your choices are affecting your behavior.

#### Rewards and Consequences with Supervision

When individuals are in compliance with the conditions of supervision, the probation officer may give incentives or rewards such as changing curfews, allowing time for family activities, requesting modification of conditions, less frequent drug screening, decreasing frequency of reporting and possible early termination from supervision.

When an individual does not comply, the probation officer has a duty to respond. Possible consequences include the use of delegated authority or having additional conditions imposed by your probation officer or a formal violation hearing before the court which may result in jail or prison time.

## Your Success is Our Goal

## What does Delegated Authority mean?

Delegated Authority allows a probation officer to impose certain additional requirements in structured sentencing cases on a probationer without court involvement. The probationer can either be in violation status or through the Department's risk assessment process be determined to be high risk. In either situation, the probation officer can impose additional requirements for the purpose of public safety and/or changing your behavior. Completion of any imposed activities can result in a lessening of requirements when there are positive changes.

## Periods of Confinement

For probationers placed on probation with offense dates on or after 12/1/2011, the officer can use delegated authority to require jail confinement for 2 to 3 days and for no more than 6 days per month during any 3 separate months. You will have the option to refuse the days in jail which will automatically result in the violation(s) being addressed in a formal violation hearing before the Court.

Violations may also result in an appearance before the Court where a Confinement in Response to Violation (CRV) could be imposed as a response to violations other than a new criminal offense or statutory absconding. The Court may impose confinement of 90 days for a felony or up to 90 days for a DWI. The Court may impose 2 to 3 days for no more than 6 days per month during any 3 separate months for misdemeanors.

Upon completion of the CRV, you will be released back into the community to complete the remainder of your supervision period.

Probationers will be required to serve (2) two periods of confinement before the Court can revoke the remainder of the sentence.

## Payments

A condition of your probation may require you to pay the State of North Carolina certain costs, fees and fines associated with violating the laws of the State of North Carolina. Amounts are specified on your judgment.

Your probation officer will total all your costs (including the supervision fee) and determine a payment schedule. This is the amount you must pay each month in order to pay all the fees owed as ordered. You may pay more on the monthly payment if you wish, but the minimum payment is required. You may also pay all fees owed at one time.

Payments are to be made to the Clerk in the county where you were convicted. Online probation payments can be made using the OCAP system at <http://onlineservices.nccourts.org/OCAP>. Please have the county where you were convicted and your case number available when paying online.

It is important to keep the lines of communication open between you and your probation officer. You are required to meet with your probation officer as specified on the date and time set by the officer. If you can not keep a scheduled appointment, you must call your Probation Officer ahead of time when possible.

It is in your best interest to comply with the conditions ordered by the court or your Probation Officer. By abiding by both the regular and special conditions you can avoid any violations and will successfully complete your probation.

The benefits of abiding by your conditions, changing your behavior and paying your fees as scheduled could mean the early end of your probation.

**This is a possibility, not a guarantee.**

## Emergency Contact

In the event of a natural disaster or catastrophe (hurricanes, tornados, fire, etc.) and you are unable to contact your probation officer due to the probation office or your residence being affected, then you are to telephone one of the following locations until you reach someone in order for us to know your whereabouts and status during the emergency. You should first attempt to contact your assigned officer.

## Voting Rights

If you are convicted of a felony in North Carolina, you forfeit your citizenship rights, including the right to vote. If you had registered to vote prior to your conviction, the registration has been cancelled by the County Board of elections pursuant to N.C.G.S. 163-55. *It shall be unlawful for any person convicted of a crime which excludes the person from the right of suffrage, to vote at any primary or election without having been restored to the right of citizenship in due course and by the method provided by law.* N.C.G.S. 163-275(5)



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2020 Yonkers Road MSC 4250  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4250

Phone: 919-716-3100